

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: *VEGA, et al.*

Serial No.: 10/022,249

Filed: December 17, 2001

For: *HIGH THROUGHPUT DIRECTED  
EVOLUTION BY RATIONAL  
MUTAGENESIS*

Art Unit: 1643

Examiner: Unassigned



I hereby certify that this paper and the attached papers are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:  
Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231, on this date.

03/01/2002

Date

*Lynn Morkunas*  
Lynn Morkunas

TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Transmitted herewith is a Preliminary Amendment for filing in connection with the above-identified application.

- [ X ] The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be due under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16-1.17 in connection with this paper or with this application during its entire pendency to Deposit Account No. 50-1213. A duplicate of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,  
HELLER, EHRMAN WHITE & McAULIFFE LLP

By:

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5

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Lynn Morkunas

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## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Preliminary to examination of the above-captioned patent application entry  
of the following amendment is respectfully requested.

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please amend the specification as follows (a marked up copy of the  
amended specification is attached to this Amendment):

**Please replace the paragraph on page 4, lines 6-17, with the following:**

The processes require accurate titring of the viruses in a collection or  
among collections (libraries) so that the activities of the screened mutant  
proteins can be compared. Provided are general methods for the quantitative  
assessment of the parameters of activity corresponding to the individual variants  
in the library, based upon intracellular serial dilution generated by precise titring  
with the gene transfer viral vectors. Any method that permits accurate titring  
may be used, including that described in International PCT application No.  
PCT/FR01/01366, based on French application n° 0005852, filed 9 May 2000,  
and published as International PCT application No. WO 01/186291. A method